

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please AMEND claims 7 and 14 in accordance with the following:

1. (Original) A model management system including a first server serving as a product data management system and a second server arranged on a terminal side for managing three-dimensional model data of product data input from individual terminals,

said second server comprising:

bulk data storing means for storing bulk data which is actual data of models input from the terminals;

meta-data storing means for storing meta-data which is attribute information of the models;

encrypting means, responsive to an input of information indicative of end of design work from any one of the terminals, for encrypting corresponding bulk data stored in said bulk data storing means; and

transmitting means for transmitting a decryption key matching the encryption and meta-data corresponding to the encrypted bulk data to said first server, and

said first server comprising:

storing means for storing the decryption key and the meta-data transmitted thereto from said second server, in a manner associated with each other;

acquiring means, responsive to a browse request for certain bulk data from any one of the terminals, for acquiring a storage location of the corresponding bulk data by looking up the meta-data and the corresponding decryption key; and

returning means for sending the storage location and the decryption key acquired by said acquiring means to a terminal which has made the browse request.

2 - 5 (Cancelled)

6. (Original) A model management apparatus for managing a model constituted by a plurality of parts, comprising:

storing means for storing the model;

trial manufacture request input means for accepting an input of a trial manufacture request for the model stored in said storing means or for a part constituting the model;

defining means, responsive to the trial manufacture request for the model or the part from said trial manufacture request input means, for defining a version number of the model or the part;

and

prohibiting means, responsive to definition of the version number of the model or the part by said defining means, for prohibiting revision or modification of the model or the part with an earlier version number.

7. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for causing a computer to perform a process of managing a model constituted by a plurality of parts, the program causing the computer to function as

storing means for storing the model,

trial manufacture request input means for accepting an input of a trial manufacture request for a certain part constituting the model stored in the storing means, and

defining means, responsive to the trial manufacture request for the certain part from the trial manufacture request input means, for defining the part as a part with a predetermined version number, and

prohibiting means, responsive to definition of the part by said defining means, for prohibiting revision or modification of the part with an earlier version number.

8 - 11 (Cancelled)

12. (Previously Presented) A model management system including a first server serving as a product data management system and a second server arranged on a terminal side for managing three-dimensional model data of product data input from individual terminals,

said second server comprising:

a bulk data storing unit storing bulk data which is actual data of models input from the terminals;

a meta-data storing unit storing meta-data which is attribute information of the models;

an encrypting unit, responsive to an input of information indicative of end of design work from any one of the terminals, encrypting corresponding bulk data stored in said bulk data storing unit; and

a transmitter transmitting a decryption key matching the encryption and meta-data corresponding to the encrypted bulk data to said first server, and

said first server comprising:

a storing unit storing the decryption key and the meta-data transmitted thereto from said second server, in a manner associated with each other;

an acquiring unit, responsive to a browse request for certain bulk data from any one of the terminals, acquiring a storage location of the corresponding bulk data by looking up the meta-data and the corresponding decryption key; and

a returning unit sending the storage location and the decryption key acquired by said acquiring unit to a terminal which has made the browse request.

13. (Previously Presented) A model management method for managing a model constituted by a plurality of parts, comprising:

storing the model in a storing unit;

accepting an input of a trial manufacture request via a trial manufacture request input unit, for the model stored in said storing unit or for a part constituting the model;

defining a version number of the model or the part by a defining unit, responsive to the trial manufacture request for the model or the part from said trial manufacture request input unit; and

prohibiting revision or modification of the model or the part with an earlier version number via a prohibiting unit, responsive to definition of the version number of the model or the part by said defining unit.

14. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable recording medium recording a program for causing a computer to perform a process of managing a model constituted by a plurality of parts, the program causing the computer to perform:

storing the model,

accepting an input of a trial manufacture request for a certain part constituting the model stored, and

responsive to the trial manufacture request for the certain part, defining the part as a part with a predetermined version number, and

responsive to definition of the part, prohibiting revision or modification of the part with an earlier version number.